PROCLAMATION
DECLARING JULY 8-13, 2019, AS
PALM BEACH COUNTY SUMMER LEARNING WEEK AND
JULY 2019 AS SUMMER LEARNING MONTH

WHEREAS, almost 100 years of research has proven that children lose ground academically when they are out of school for the summer; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth results from unequal access to summer learning opportunities, and

WHEREAS, 28 percent of Palm Beach County children in grades K-2 showed a drop in reading proficiency in summer 2018, an increase from 25 percent in summer 2017; and

WHEREAS, the summer learning loss is measurably greater among children living in poverty who lose, on average, more than two months of reading achievement in the summer; and

WHEREAS, 87 percent of Palm Beach County children in grades K-2 reading significantly below grade level receive free and reduced priced lunch (an increase from 85 percent in 2017), reiterating the correlation between poverty and reading scores locally; and

WHEREAS, this persistent summer learning loss can slow children’s progress toward third-grade reading proficiency; can leave some children 2½ to 3 years behind their peers by fifth grade; can account for up to two-thirds of the achievement gap in ninth-grade reading; and can delay or prevent high school graduation; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County can help schools and families address summer learning loss by supporting strong programs that challenge children, develop their talents, keep them engaged and expand their horizons; and

WHEREAS, Children’s Services Council invested heavily in summer camps scholarships, with the most recent years as follows; and

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dollars</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$2M +</td>
<td>2,300 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$2.8M +</td>
<td>3,900 +</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019 *</td>
<td>$4.4M +</td>
<td>4,000 +</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* "Up to" amounts for 2019

WHEREAS, the Council further recognized the importance of summer learning for Palm Beach County youth by authorizing additional funds in 2018 to offer Expanded Learning Opportunities at 114 summer camps that are approved by the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department to serve lower-income elementary and middle school children receiving summer camp scholarships; and

WHEREAS, the week of July 8-13, 2019, is designated as national “Summer Learning Week 2019” to remind our community of the importance of keeping children learning, safe and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school in the fall ready to learn and succeed in the year ahead;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY proclaims the week of July 8-13, 2019, as Palm Beach County Summer Learning Week and the month of July, 2019 as Summer Learning Month.
The Chairman thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 27th day of June, 2019.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

BY: Thomas A. Sheehan, III
Attorney for Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

BY: Thomas P. Weber, Chair

BY: Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer